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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany/Soviet Orbit REPORT [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Integration of East Germany into the Soviet Satellite Corn-growing Program DATE DISTR. 1 August 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] REFERENCES 50X1-HUM

DATE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. When USSR Communist Party Secretary Nikita S. Krushchev was in Berlin on 16 July 1955 en route to Geneva, he told a Soviet advisor of the East German Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that the final steps in integrating East German corn planting into the corn planting program of the Soviet Satellites were to be taken immediately. He added that he expected to be handed a completed East German plan upon his return.
2. Under the coordinated plan, Rumania will contribute four million hectares of land for growing corn under advanced scientific methods. This is mostly land which had not previously been used for agriculture.
3. East Germany and Czechoslovakia will initiate a program for the mass production of agricultural machinery, including seed drill and harvesting equipment, in support of the coordinated corn program. They are to receive a large share of the Rumanian corn production and use this for hog feed. East German and Czechoslovak agricultural experts are to assist Rumania, at least at the beginning of the program.
4. Soviet advisors have ordered that a minimum of 15,000 hectares in East Germany be planted in corn in 1956, in contrast to only 3,125 hectares planted in corn in 1955. At present, the largest corn planting on an East German collective farm is only 6.5 hectares; the average planting on private and state farms is only 2.7 hectares.
5. The Soviet "square cluster" (Quadratnetz) method of planting is to be used in East Germany. Under this system of planting, the rows intersect at a 90 degree angle, making it possible to grow more plants per square meter. This method increases the yield but makes the work much harder.
6. East Germany has only about 40 percent of the phosphates and superphosphates required for fertilization. This situation calls for increased imports, but a shortage of foreign currency prevents purchases abroad. It has been decided to increase the nitrogen production. This can be exported or traded for phosphates and superphosphates. New production facilities have already been planned, but

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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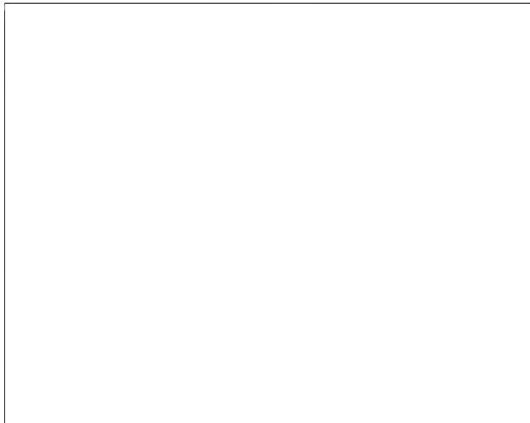
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the surplus of nitrate will not be large enough to relieve the situation for at least one year.

1. Comment: The figure appears exaggerated in view of Rumania's total area. 50X1-HUM
2. Comment: The seed needed to plant 15,000 hectares in corn would be several thousand tons more than is actually available. At present only 5,000 tons are placed in reserve for seed. 50X1-HUM



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